



## YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST REPORT

<b>SITE</b>	St Peter's School, York		
<b>CLIENT NAME</b>	St. Peter's School, York		
<b>YAT PROJECT #</b>	5918	<b>YAT REPORT #</b>	2016/61
<b>MUSEUM ACCESSION #</b>	N/A	<b>GRID REFERENCE</b>	NGR 45961/45261
<b>PLANNING REFERENCE #</b>	16/01385/LBC, 16/01221/FUL	<b>AAI OPS NOTICE #</b>	N/A

York Archaeological Trust undertook a watching brief at St Peter's School, Bootham, York, on 19<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup> July and 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016. The objective was to record any deposits, features or buried structures exposed during works associated with landscaping to the front of the school for the creation of a new pedestrian and vehicular route and the creation of a wheelchair access ramp. The site lies within the City of York Area of Archaeological Importance.

The works involved the observation of the results of tarmac stripping and hardcore removal over the footprint of the works and the digging of any deeper sections required by the footings for the ramp or necessitated by the condition of underlying brick drains crossing the area.

These works were monitored initially by a de facto inspection during an initial site meeting at 3pm on Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> July, by which time the tarmac had been removed and several bucket scrapes made to determine the depth and extent of the underlying hardcore. Following a phone call from Mr Paul Batchelor of LHL Group (site representative for the Groundworks team) at 9.00am on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> July, an inspection of the area of hardcore reduced by machining to the required depth was undertaken. Such recording as required was undertaken by means of written notes and colour digital photographs. No artefacts were recovered and no samples were taken. Work on the footings for the wheelchair access ramp did not commence until 8<sup>th</sup> August 2016, though the notification did not reach the author until the following day, by which time the concrete had been poured. An inspection took place first thing on the morning of the 10<sup>th</sup> when the extent and depth of the works were examined and recorded and photographs taken by the site foreman prior to concreting examined. No artefactual material was recovered or identified, no features were present and no archaeological deposits appear to have been disturbed

### RESULTS

The tarmac and hardcore across the footprint of the landscaping works were removed by a JCB tracked excavator fitted with a 1.2m toothless bucket. A smaller tracked 360 excavator with a 0.5m toothless bucket was used for 'bucket scrapes' and investigation of softer areas of ground associated with the pre existing drains. Existing stone kerbs defining the grassed edge of the area were removed by hand after hand deturfing prior to the extension of the access route into the area laid to lawn. The removal of spoil took place before inspection but a walkover of the exposed areas was conducted.

The topsoil immediately below the hardcore was a dark greyish brown mixed clay matrix with frequent ceramic building material fragments, occasional mortar lumps and small rounded pebbles. This deposit overlay the whole exposed area. Locally, this layer had slumped into the underlying brick drains whose upper fills were partially exposed, defined by greater quantities of brick rubble. Apart from the brick/tile fragments, no artefactual material was observed. No additional features were observed in plan or section and the exposed sequence was otherwise uniform across the whole of the trench.

The foundation trench for the footings associated with the wheelchair access ramp was limited in area and nowhere was a depth greater than 0.4m excavated. The base of the trench excavated was still within the deposit described above. No archaeological deposits have disturbed by the current groundworks.

<b>COMPLETED BY</b>	SJ Allen	<b>CHECKED BY</b>	D Aspden	<b>FINISHED</b>	26/08/16
<b>FINDS</b>	0	<b>SAMPLES</b>	0	<b>PHOTOS</b>	Yes
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### DISCUSSION

The sequence is characteristic of deposits associated with the construction of nineteenth and twentieth century buildings in York. The CBM rubble and mixed clays are a make-up deposit immediately post dating the construction of the present school building whose walls do not cut this deposit. The remains of hardcore for the roadway have been pressed into the upper surface of this deposit and some areas of this material are still in situ where their removal was not required by the current works programme.

In mid July, inspection of the drains by remote TV Camera was due to be carried out. If the inspection showed that the drains had collapsed they would be excavated and replaced, otherwise an internal relining would be carried out. If the drains were to be replaced the intention was to work wholly within the existing service trenches but some monitoring may have been required. No calls to monitor such work were received and it is presumed that intervention was not needed.

No walls, drains or other features were observed. The observed upcast contained no finds or artefactual material to indicate occupation in the area, other than that derived from the construction of the current school buildings and their ongoing use. Though it remains a possibility that archaeological deposits may be present at a greater depth, the current development does not affect their survival.



Plate 1: Roadway after tarmac stripping, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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Plate 2: Small machine bucket test scrape in middle of roadway after tarmac stripping, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016



Plate 3: Test machine bucket scrape along margin between lawn and roadway before removal of kerbs, 19<sup>th</sup> July 2016

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Plate 4: View after completion of machining, 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016



Plate 5: Access ramp footings and walling partially completed, 10<sup>th</sup> August 2016

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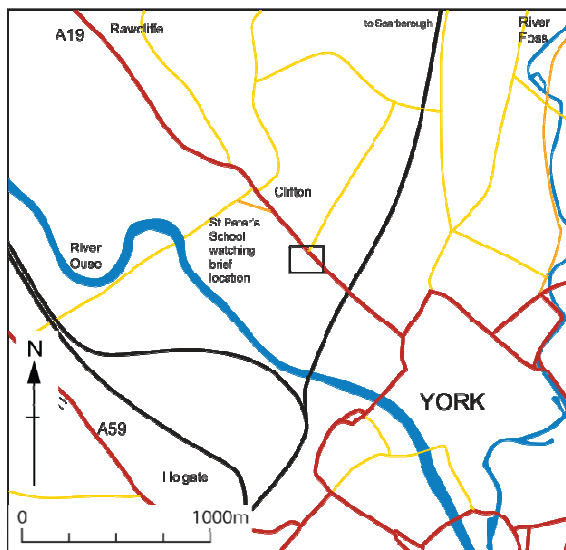


Figure 1: Site location

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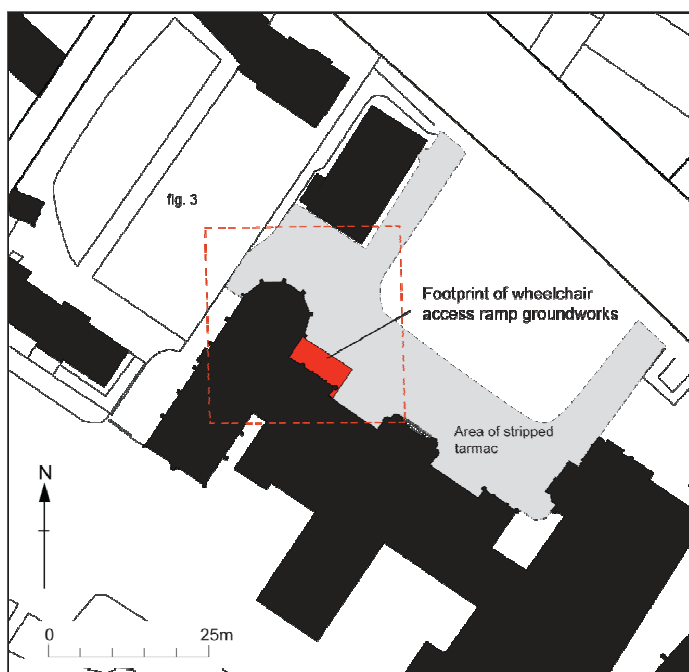


Figure 2: Location of Monitored works.

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**Figure 3: Footings for wheelchair access ramp.**

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